

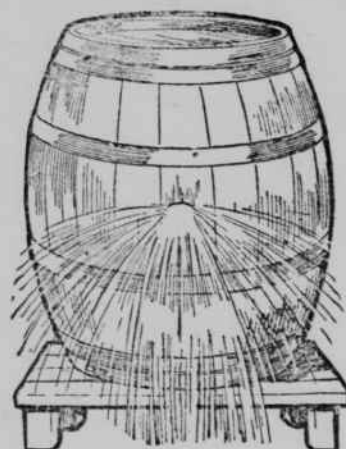
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MAN AND THE RAT.

The Long Battle Between These Two Conquering Forces.

The dominion of man over the beasts of the field does not yet include the rodents. Aurochs, cave bear and mammoth we put down with stone headed arrows. We have wiped out the buffalo. The lion and the elephant will soon be gone. But still the rabbit of Australia cost the colonies millions a year. Traps, ferrets and poison still fail to make headway against the rats, mice and gophers of the United States. While our animal enemies have become smaller in size, they have grown more numerous. It is as if nature after trying vainly to chastise her insubordinate son with a catapult had gone after him with a shotgun.

The fact is that of all warm blooded creatures there are just two that are really dominant, successful, increasing in numbers and range and able to maintain themselves anywhere in the world against all rivals. These two are man and the rat. The genus homo and genus mus go everywhere and eat everything. They are the two creatures that dwell in houses and travel in ships. Each drives its other rivals to the wall, but neither except locally and for brief periods has ever come near to exterminating the other. Civilized man has fought the common rat for 200 years, and the battle is still drawn.—McClure's Magazine.

Will the Maine Be Raised?

Information from Washington in connection with the long delayed appropriation for "raising the Maine" gives reason for the belief that the wreck may never be raised intact as it is today. Recovery of the bodies of the heroes entombed in the mud embanked hold seems to be the only thing positively provided for. The elimination of an obstruction to navigation and the probing of the mystery of the explosion in 1898 are incidental in the plans discussed.

The appropriation of \$100,000 seems small for a thorough job. Recovery and fitting burial of the bodies might be accomplished at that cost. This feature has always been a popular demand. But for that the impediment to navigation would probably have been disposed of long ago by dynamiting. Dynamite will bury the wreck and its mystery in one blow. If the bodies are first recovered the public probably will cease to take interest in the sinking of the Maine.

Trade between the United States and the republic of Panama will exceed \$22,000,000 for the fiscal year ending in June and for the seven years since the republic of Panama came into existence will approximate \$100,000,000. About nine-tenths of this total, speaking in very round terms, is merchandise exported from the United States to Panama and about one-tenth merchandise imported into this country from that republic.

In celerity and dignity the management of the Lustig wife murder case resembles the trial of Walter. These examples show how murder trials should be and can be conducted in New York.

No Ear For Music.

"How do you like the music, Mr. Judkins?" said Miss Parsons. "I'm sorry, but I have no ear for music," he answered. "No," put in Mr. Jasper. "He uses his for a pen rack."

An Even Score.

"What is your objection to him, papa?" "Why, the fellow can't make enough money to support you." "But neither can you."

No Use For Theory.

Wigwag—It is a pet theory of mine that two can live as cheaply as one. Youngpop—Huh! It's plain to be seen you were never the father of twins.—Philadelphia Record.

When Reggie Tells a Story.

You have to do what he thinks right; You can't sit still to hear his tale; You have to join him in the flight; Or else the fun is sure to fail.

When Reggie Tells a Story.

"There comes the bear," he cries in glee. "Nurse, you're the bear; sit up and howl."

Here, Amy, you must stand by me, And hug me tight at every growl.

"When I say 'bang,' the gun goes off. I've killed you, nurse, but move your head."

And give a little tiny cough To let us know when you are dead.

"Then, Amy, I must kiss your hand, And here's a ring for you to carry. And over there's the Prince's land, Where you and I shall go to marry."

And then nurse runs; the prince runs after And brandishes his dreadful gun— While Amy jumps and screams with laughter.

"I think we have the mostest fun— When Wiggly tells a story."

—Chicago News

FOR THE CHILDREN

A Jolly Game.

Summer time is the season for games. If you are fond of playing with your friends here is a jolly, interesting game:

Every player except the one who holds the office of reader selects a trade or profession, which he must retain throughout the game. When all have chosen their trades the reader opens a book at random and reads a passage from it aloud, but when he comes to any common noun he looks at one of the tradesmen, who must instantly name some article that he is supposed to have for sale or some implement connected with the exercise of his craft. By this substitution of one noun for another the most pathetic passage is converted into an indescribable jumble of absurdities.

In the following tale the quoted words are supposed to be supplied by the different tradesmen in the place of the nouns omitted by the reader: One offered the president a "bucket" of the most precious "airships;" another a curious piece of a "riding boots" made by Reynolds the great; another a piece of "mince pie" from the looms of Japan; another a "porous plaster" said to broil meats to perfection; another an "automobile" in a "warming pan" inlaid with ivory; another a "coffin" full of "lemon juice" spread with "pearls." "A rocking horse" was brought from Alaska, and another a gold brick of exquisite beauty from the depths of the ocean.

An Experiment With Light.

Place a vertical screen in front of a couple of candles, and between the candles and the screen interpose some opaque object, such as a large book, having on top of it a little figure cut out of cardboard. This will give you two black shadows, corresponding with the candles. Now put between the candle on the right and your cardboard figure a bit of colored glass or a glass filled with colored water, say red, and you will see the image on the right in red, while the figure on the left will have disappeared. But looking a little more attentively you will see that is now replaced by the likeness of a figure in pale green, the complementary color to that which illuminates the screen. If you put yellow liquid in your glass the left hand figure will seem violet. If you use blue water the left hand figure will look orange. The figure on the right will always be the color of the water.—Magical Experiments.

A Bird That Sews.

The tailor birds are East Indian warblers that wear plain clothes, but live in a fancy tailored dwelling, for in building a nest these clever birds either sew a dead leaf to a living one or join two neighboring leaves together so as to form a kind of hanging pouch, which remains attached to the branch by the leaf stalk of one or both leaves. The threads which they use consist generally of twisted fibers or of actual cotton threads, the bill serving for a needle in puncturing holes in the leaves and in drawing the threads through. Occasionally if a large enough leaf is found the nest may be formed by drawing together the free edges of the leaf. The lower part of the pouch contains the nest, which is a cup of soft materials and is entered from above. The actual structure of this ingenious cradle has never been scientifically observed, but neither the bird nor its nest is uncommon.

A Queer Old Riddle.

Two legs sat upon three legs and had one leg in hand; then came four legs and took away one; then up started two legs and threw three legs at four legs and brought back one leg.

Answer: A woman with two legs sat on a stool with three legs and had a leg of mutton in her hand; then came a dog with four legs and took away the leg of mutton; then up started the woman with two legs and threw the stool with three legs at the dog with four legs and brought back the one leg of mutton.

A Natural Question.

Little Margaret went with her mother to the dock to see her auntie set sail on the big ocean steamer. Margaret had never seen a big steamer before, and she watched everything with great interest. The great boat slipped slowly away from the dock, and Margaret waved her hand frantically with the rest. Then she looked up at her mother very solemnly.

"Mamma," she questioned, "does the water follow that ship all the way over to England?"

A Difference.

"I am told that Jones is a regular leech. Is that true?" "No; I would hardly say that. A leech, you know, never gets stuck on himself."

A KING'S DOWNFALL.

Louis Philippe's Lack of Nerve When the Crisis Came.

Baroness Bonde wrote in her diary the following account of the abdication of Louis Philippe of France on the day of that remarkable occurrence:

"An aid-de-camp of the minister of war who was in the king's cabinet when he abdicated gave me a detailed account of this most signal piece of cowardice. He had reviewed the troops in the carrousel on horseback, highly roused, when a cry was raised. 'Vive les Faubourgs!' No one had any orders; no one gave any. The mob rushed forward, shouting, 'Vive la garde nationale—vivent les troupes!' and shook hands with the outposts. The king retreated precipitately with his sons, and a sublieutenant of the national guard rushed into the palace asking to see him. He was admitted and in the greatest agitation said, 'Your majesty must abdicate.' 'Very well,' says the king. 'In favor of my grandson.' 'No, unconditionally,' says the young and self elected mouthpiece of public opinion.

"Would you believe it? Of all who were congregated round the royal person Piscatory alone said: 'Go down and head your troops. Fight for your crown and your dynasty.' He was overruled, and they all marched out of the palace except the Duchesse d'Orleans, her children and the Duc de Nemours."

Our National Game.

"The raw American citizen," says Ellis Parker Butler in Success Magazine, "who takes his seat at a ball game for the first time feels as he would should he drop into the Metropolitan Opera House and find himself hearing Wagnerian opera from a seat in the midst of seasoned German opera goers. He hears a language that is new to him. The man at his right can tell more about the first baseman's peculiarities than he could tell about the manners of his own wife. The man at his left has trouble remembering the size collar he wears, but he can name every man in every club of both major leagues, tell the age of each, give the complete table of batting records offhand and recite, item by item, every feature of every game played on the home grounds during the last five years. That is why baseball is our national game. We love the game not because we are Chickens and the Chicago nine wins nor because we are Pittsburghers and the Pittsburgh nine is winning, but because we are educated in baseball and like to see a good game played by the best men in their field that can be found in the world."

Boxing the Compass.

Boys who live in seaport towns are sometimes asked to "box the compass." If they can do it quickly and accurately they are fine sailors and may grow up to be the captain of a four master. If they miss a point or can only do it slowly they are landlubbers and will never see blue water. To box the compass means to name all the points in order just as fast as you can speak. This is the way an old down east skipper will rattle it off: North, nor' by east, nor-nor-east, nor-east by north, nor-east, nor-east by east, east-nor-east, east by north, east, east by south, east-southeast, southeast by east, southeast, southeast by south, south-southeast, south by east, south, south by west, south-southwest, southwest by south, south-west, south-west by west, west-southwest, west by south, west, west by north, west-nor-west, nor-west by west, nor-west, nor-west by north, nor-nor-west, nor' by west, north. Can you do it?—Exchange.

Gunpowder and Artillery.

There is abundant evidence that the origin of gunpowder and artillery goes far back in the dim ages of the past. The Hindoo code, compiled long before the Christian era, prohibited the making of war with cannon and guns or any kind of firearms. Quintus Curtius informs us that Alexander the Great met with fire weapons in Asia, and Philostratus says that Alexander's conquests were arrested by the use of gunpowder. It is also written that those wise men who lived in the cities of the Ganges "overthrew their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from the walls."

An Odd Turkish Superstition.

An odd Turkish superstition is as follows: If one finds a piece of bread lying upon the ground he must pick it up, kiss it and carry it until he finds a hole into which the bread can be inserted. To step upon a piece of bread or to leave it lying upon the ground is one of the unpardonable sins and dooms the offender to the third hell, where he is perpetually gored by an ox that has but a single horn that is in the center of his forehead.

Advanced Ancestral Pride.

"So Woodby is very rich now. When I knew him he was poor. His only treasure in those days was the musket his great-grandfather carried in the Revolution."

"Oh, his great-grandfather has been promoted since. Woodby exhibits his sword now."—Philadelphia Press.

The Lighthouse.

"Pa, what is meant by the lighthouse?" "The lighthouse, my boy, is something that everybody wants to be in without paying advertising rates for the privilege."—Detroit Free Press.

Good and Sufficient Reason.

Editor—But, my good fellow, why do you bring this poem to me? Impeccable One—Well, sir, because I hadn't a stamp, sir.—London Tatler.

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